



# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

PARISH WORKBOOK  
SACRED HEART - ELSBERRY

# ABOUT YOUR PARISH WORKBOOK

- This parish workbook is designed to equip pastors and key parish leaders with data about the Archdiocese of St. Louis, your local planning area, and your parish.
- The data contained in this parish workbook has been gathered over the past twenty years from your parish and other parishes across the Archdiocese.
- This parish workbook should be used as an internal planning tool to help shape your reflections on the current strengths and opportunities for future growth of ministry and evangelization in the future.
- To help ensure accuracy of information, parishes are requested to limit the distribution of the information contained in this parish workbook to the pastor, parish staff, key parish leaders, and key advisory bodies. Information summarizing this data will be made available in the fall 2022 for parishioners across the Archdiocese.



# ALL THINGS NEW PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to “Go and Make Disciples of all Nations,” strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## GUIDING TEXTS

### REV. 21:3-5

*I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away.”*

*The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”*





## GUIDING TEXTS EVANGELII NUNTIANDI (#18)

*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."*

*But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.*







## GUIDING TEXTS JOY OF THE GOSPEL (#27)

*I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE OUTCOME

**Develop a plan that will make all things new enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for the next century**

## **A Renewed Church**

Gospel renewal in our parishes, schools, and other ministry efforts

## **A Renewed Mission**

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society

## **A Vibrant Future**

Secure a vibrant future for the Church of St. Louis



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

## GOALS

1. **Unceasing Prayer.** Engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the need for Jesus Christ in their daily lives and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to fully share the love of the Lord in every encounter.
2. **Unifying Vision.** Articulate and implement a vision for evangelization that empowers and expects every baptized Catholic to spread the Gospel message and ensures a Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through missionary outreach, parish and school footprint, and dynamic leadership.
3. **Intentional Stewardship.** Define and develop a plan that will appropriately reallocate resources throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis that will be supported by structures at the diocesan, parish, school, and agency levels to ensure long-term viability and vibrancy of the Catholic presence.





# ALL THINGS NEW TIMELINE





# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR DIOCESE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

# ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

- The Archdiocese of St. Louis is 178 parishes encompassing the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties – a large and diverse territory: urban, suburban and rural.
- Our local church has been declining for several decades as older Catholics die and there are insufficient number of young Catholics to take their place.
- This is best exemplified by the significant decline in the number of births and baptisms in our diocese.
- As our Catholic population has moved from the city to the near suburbs and from the near suburbs to the farther out suburbs, this has resulted in too few priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes.
- Our diocesan priests are aging and number of priests to serve our Catholic population is declining.
- Over the past decade, Mass attendance has been on a steady decline. The long-term implications of COVID are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2021 still leaves us 25% below pre-COVID levels.



# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- In 2021, the number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis dipped below 500,000 for first time since the 1960s.
- We have more baptisms than funerals and we have nearly 1,000 enter the church each year. Our numbers should be growing by 2,000 per year.
- As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college.



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION IS AGING RESULTING IN FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE

## The Landscape in the United States

- In the last decade, the percentage of the adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 17% to 26%.
- In the last decade, the percentage of the millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%.

## The Landscape in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Our baptism and marriage trends reflect the national landscape, as they are half of what they were 20 years ago.





# WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% to 1% per year.
- Mass attendance hit a record low in October 2020 which is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While Mass attendance in October 2021 showed a significant increase from 2020, it was still 25% lower than Mass attendance in October 2019.
- In 2019, only 33% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass. By 2021, only 25% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass.



# FEWER BAPTISMS HAVE RESULTED IN FEWER CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PSR

- Though we educate a higher percentage of children in our Catholic schools than nearly any other diocese (37%), enrollment continues to decline.
- During the last decade, PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment.
- Our current model of Catholic elementary schools cannot continue.
  - Only 40-50% of our elementary school children live in the boundaries of their parish school.
  - The cost to educate our students continues to outpace tuition increases.
  - Parish investment in our schools continues to absorb an increasing percentage of parish funds available to support other parish ministries.



# OUR PRIESTS ARE AGING

- 35% of our diocesan priests (74 priests) serving in parishes are 65 years of age or older.
- These 74 priests could retire in the next 10 years.
- Though priests' retirement age is 75, the average of retirement for our diocesan priests has been 71.
- By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests to serve in parishes than the number of parishes we have.
- Our largest parishes will still need to be served by 2-3 priests.



\* Excluding retired priests resident in parishes



# OUR FINITE RESOURCES NEED TO BE REALIGNED TO ENABLE VIBRANT MINISTRY



Number of Priests *	49	46	38	27	50
Ratio of Parishioners to Priests	619	1,416	1,996	2,704	3,411

\* Includes diocesan and religious order priests





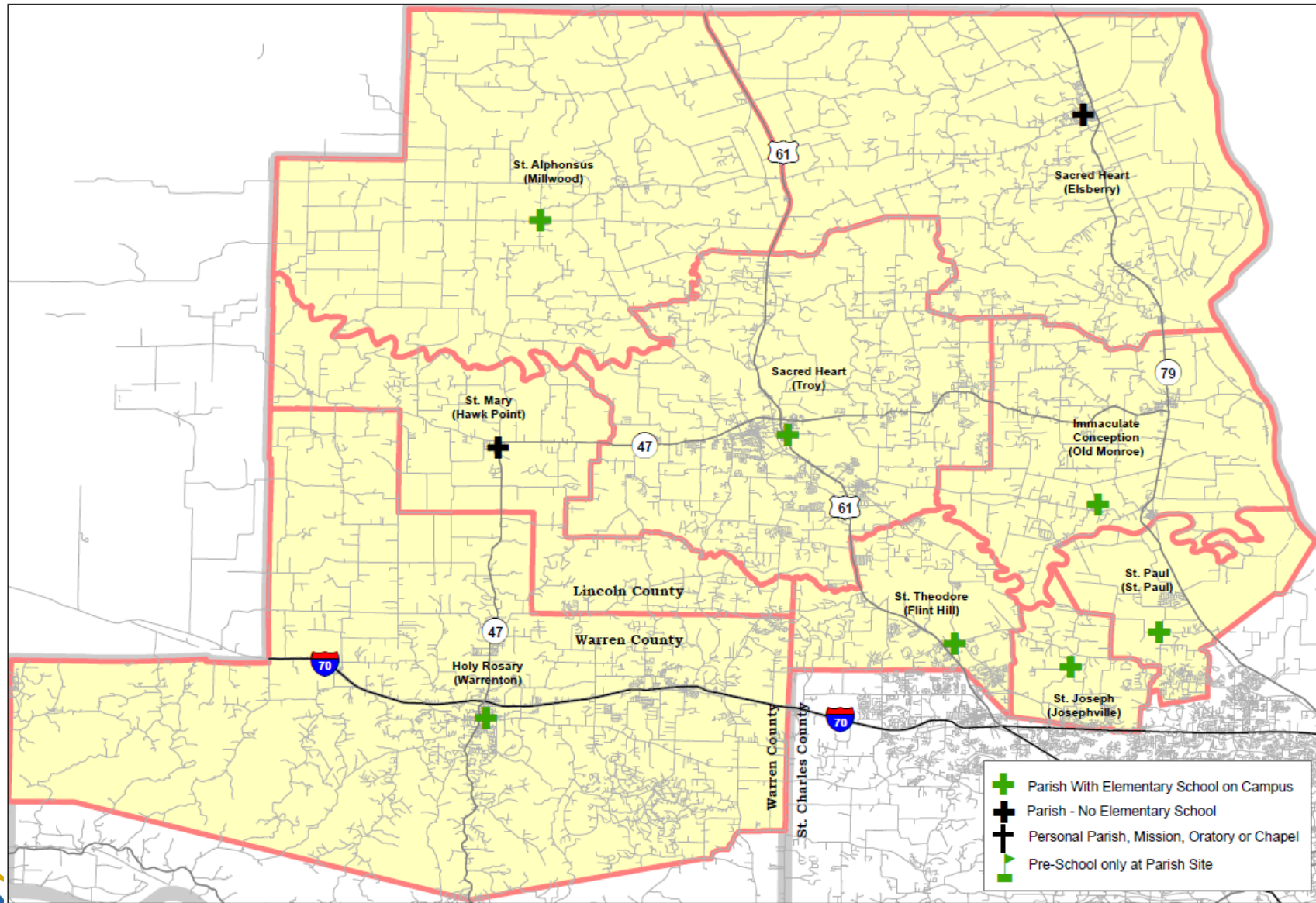
# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR PLANNING AREA  
PLANNING AREA #11

# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION





# ABOUT OUR PLANNING AREA

- The planning area is in the Counties of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren. The geography of this area is defined by Interstate 70, Highway 61, Routes 79 and 47 and the Missouri River to the east.
- It is made up of parishes from the northern portion of St. Charles deanery with the addition of Holy Rosary from the Washington deanery. There are 9 territorial parishes and 7 elementary schools. Currently there are 8 diocesan priests assigned to this group.
- Distances between parishes are typically 10 to 15 miles with the exception of St. Paul, St. Joseph and St. Theodore, which are within 5 miles of each other.



# OUR PLANNING AREA HAD THE FASTEST GROWING POPULATION OF ANY PLANNING AREA

- Total population in the planning area in the 2020 census was up 20% from 2010, continuing the rapid growth from the previous decades. This is the fast growing planning area.
- 16% of the population is registered Catholic, which is lower than the Diocesan average of 18%.
- Median household income in the area is \$68,543, which is above the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.



# OUR PLANNING AREA DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	50,290	67,065	94,996	114,235
Percent Change		33%	42%	20%
Households	17,807	24,036	34,454	41,688
Percent Change		35%	43%	21%
Population				
White	48,346	64,068	89,545	100,894
Percent of Total	96%	96%	94%	88%
Black	1,580	1,546	2,196	3,285
Percent of Total	3%	2%	2%	3%
Other/Multi-Race	365	1,450	3,254	10,056
Percent of Total	1%	2%	3%	9%
Hispanic (not a race)	401	810	2,252	3,572
Percent of Total	1%	1%	2%	3%
% of Population Age 55+	20%	20%	22%	27%

2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	20%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	19%

Median Household Income	
Planning Area	\$ 68,543
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700

2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Planning Area	16%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Planning Area	1,240

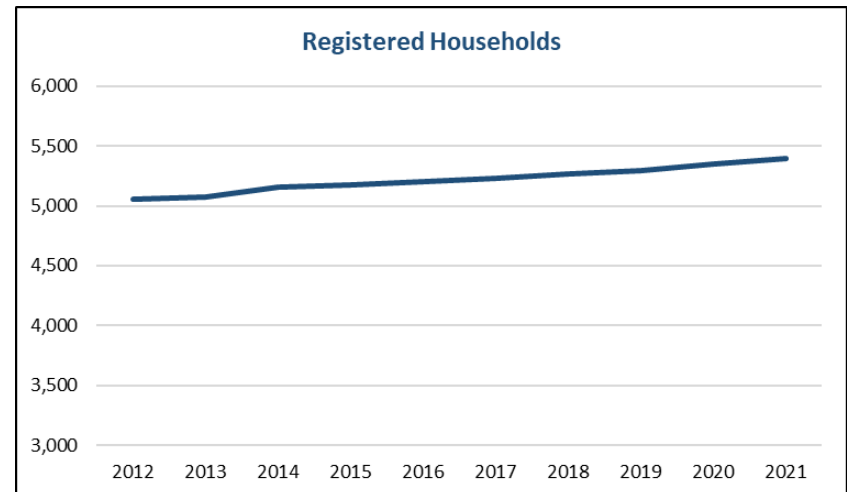
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	40%



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

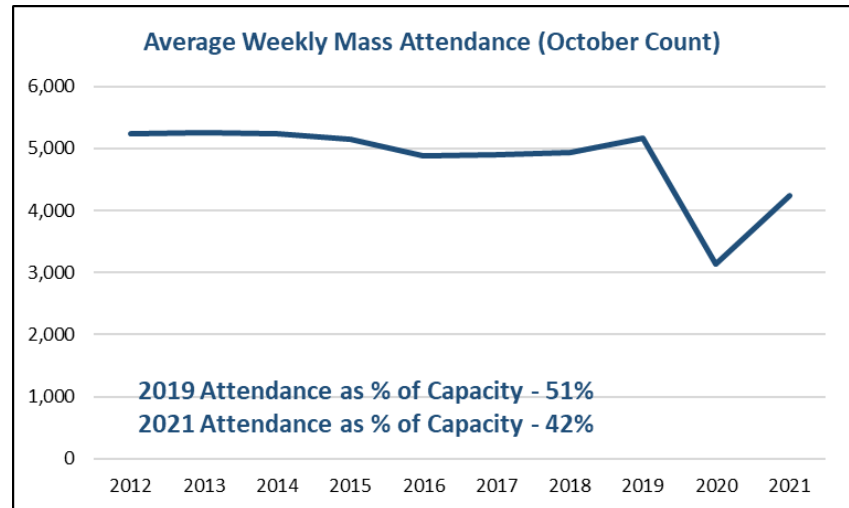
- Registered households in the planning area grew by 7% during the past decade, compared to a decline of 7% for the diocese.
- Several of the parishes in this planning area were among the fastest growing parishes in the diocese during the past decade.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

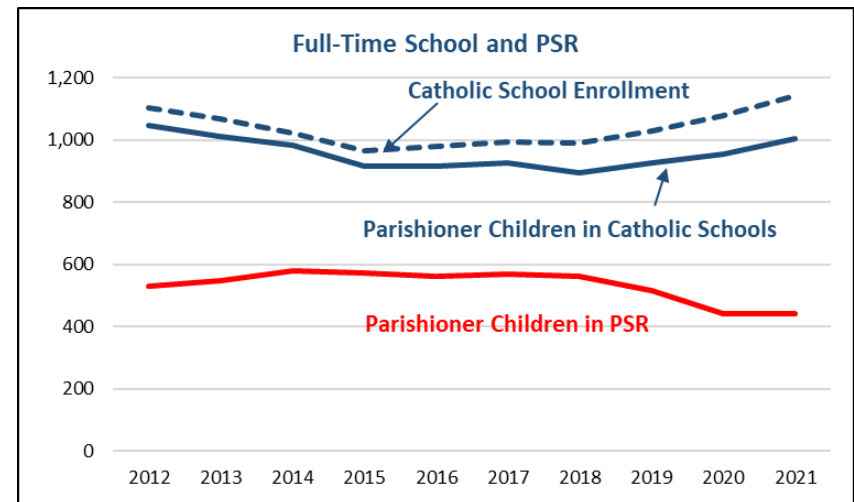
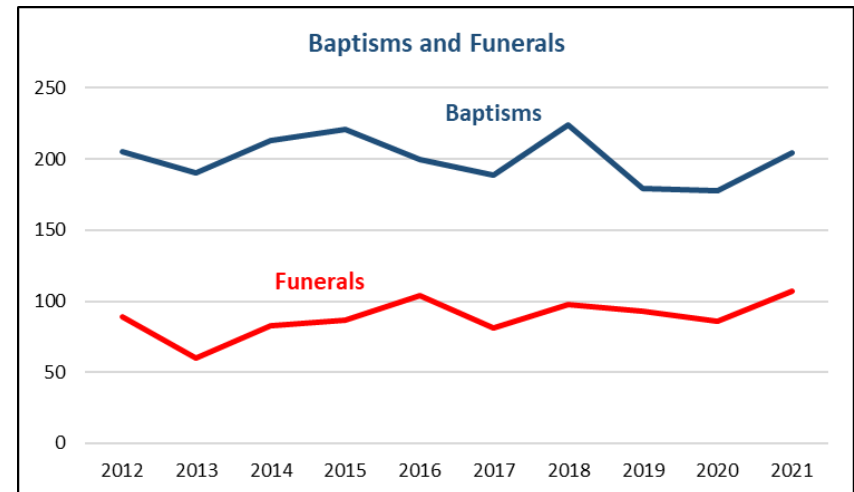
- Mass attendance declined 10% during the decade, much less than the 30% decline for the entire diocese.
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance was stable.
- Mass attendance as a percent of capacity was well above the Archdiocesan average of 35% in 2019 and 25% in 2021. This reflects, in part, the smaller churches in the planning area.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 FORMATION

- A very young demographic in this planning area as baptisms far exceed funerals.
- The Catholics of this planning area have a strong preference for Catholic day schools over PSR.
- Enrollment in Catholic schools is higher in this planning area than a decade ago.
- PSR enrollment, which had been stable, has now begun to decline.





# OUR PLANNING AREA

## MINISTRY TRENDS

	Registered Parishioner Households		Number of Catholics	Weekend Mass Attendance		Church Capacity	Baptisms	Funerals	Parishioner Children in:	
							Five Year Average 2017-2021		Catholic Schools (Include Privates)	Traditional PSR
	2011	2021	2021	2019	2021					
Holy Rosary (Warrenton)	886	866	2,260	817	674	300	29	20	132	58
Immaculate Conception (Old Monroe)	570	645	1,820	615	522	375	31	11	180	20
Sacred Heart (Elsberry)	188	155	425	134	127	250	4	3	1	37
Sacred Heart (Troy)	1,370	1,365	4,090	1,044	720	630	38	15	232	100
St. Alphonsus (Millwood)	327	310	775	239	238	220	8	8	64	27
St. Joseph (Josephville)	305	327	1,055	526	421	300	16	12	72	35
St. Mary (Hawk Point)	182	195	545	354	236	175	6	2	11	53
St. Paul (St. Paul)	650	848	2,530	804	658	280	30	13	159	55
St. Theodore (Flint Hill)	528	683	2,055	626	652	280	31	9	154	57
TOTAL	5,006	5,394	15,555	5,160	4,246		195	93	1,005	442



# OUR PLANNING AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS INCREASING

- The seven elementary schools in this planning area enrolled 1,142 children in 2021, up 17% from 5 years ago. Four of the seven schools have less than 200 students.
- Some schools draw heavily from outside their parish boundaries.
- The number of students going to Catholic elementary schools from the parishes in the planning area is 1,005.
- There are 442 students enrolled in PSR in 2021, down 21% from 5 years earlier.



# OUR PLANNING AREA

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRENDS

	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22 vs 2016-17	2021-22	2021-22
	Enrollment (K-8)	Enrollment (Pre-K) PK 3-4 & PK 4-5	5 Year Percent Change in (K-8) Enrollment	% K-8 Students Registered in Parish	% K-8 Students Living in Parish Boundaries
Holy Rosary - Warrenton	148	24	37%	89%	88%
Immaculate Conception - Old Monroe	181	43	1%	96%	71%
Sacred Heart - Troy	253	69	(10%)	86%	71%
St. Alphonsus - Millwood	76	22	90%	80%	63%
St. Joseph - Josephville	80	33	29%	85%	51%
St. Paul - St. Paul	201	40	47%	78%	46%
St. Theodore - Flint Hill	203	51	19%	74%	49%
TOTAL	1,142	282	17%	n/a	n/a





# ALL THINGS NEW

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OUR PARISH  
SACRED HEART - ELSBERRY

## ABOUT OUR PARISH

- One of five parishes in Lincoln County, Sacred Heart parish was founded in 1908 as a mission parish and became a parish in 1940. Lincoln County had the fastest percent growth in population between the 2010 and 2020 census of all counties in the Archdiocese, but the growth did not occur in the Sacred Heart parish area. Sacred Heart is located along one of the three main highways through Lincoln County, Highway 79.
- The parish never operated an elementary school.
- This is a parish of 155 households. The current parish church was opened in the 1950s and seats 250. The parish does not have its own cemetery.



# ABOUT OUR PARISH

- Population in Sacred Heart area did not grow during the past decade, area aging slightly.
- Parish membership has been on a decline with stable baptisms and PSR growing slightly. Mass attendance has been on a slow and gradual decline.
- Offertory has decline in the last several years, but reserves are stable.





# OUR PARISH AREA DID NOT GROW DURING THE PAST DECADE

- After growing modestly during the previous two decades, Sacred Heart territory did not grow in population between 2010 and 2020.
- The area is aging as the percent of population over age 55 grew from 21% in 2000 to 31% in 2020.
- Median household income is \$47,700 which is below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.
- 10% of the resident population is Catholic which is well below the archdiocesan average of 18%.



# OUR PARISH

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Population</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>7,241</b>	<b>7,061</b>
<i>Percent Change</i>		13%	6%	-2%
<b>Households</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>2,742</b>
<i>Percent Change</i>		12%	12%	0%
<b>Population</b>				
<b>White</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>6,486</b>	<b>6,853</b>	<b>6,431</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	98%	95%	95%	91%
<b>Black</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>110</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	2%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Other/Multi-Race</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>520</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	1%	3%	4%	7%
<b>Hispanic (not a race)</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>145</b>
<i>Percent of Total</i>	1%	2%	2%	2%
<b>% of Population Age 55+</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>31%</b>

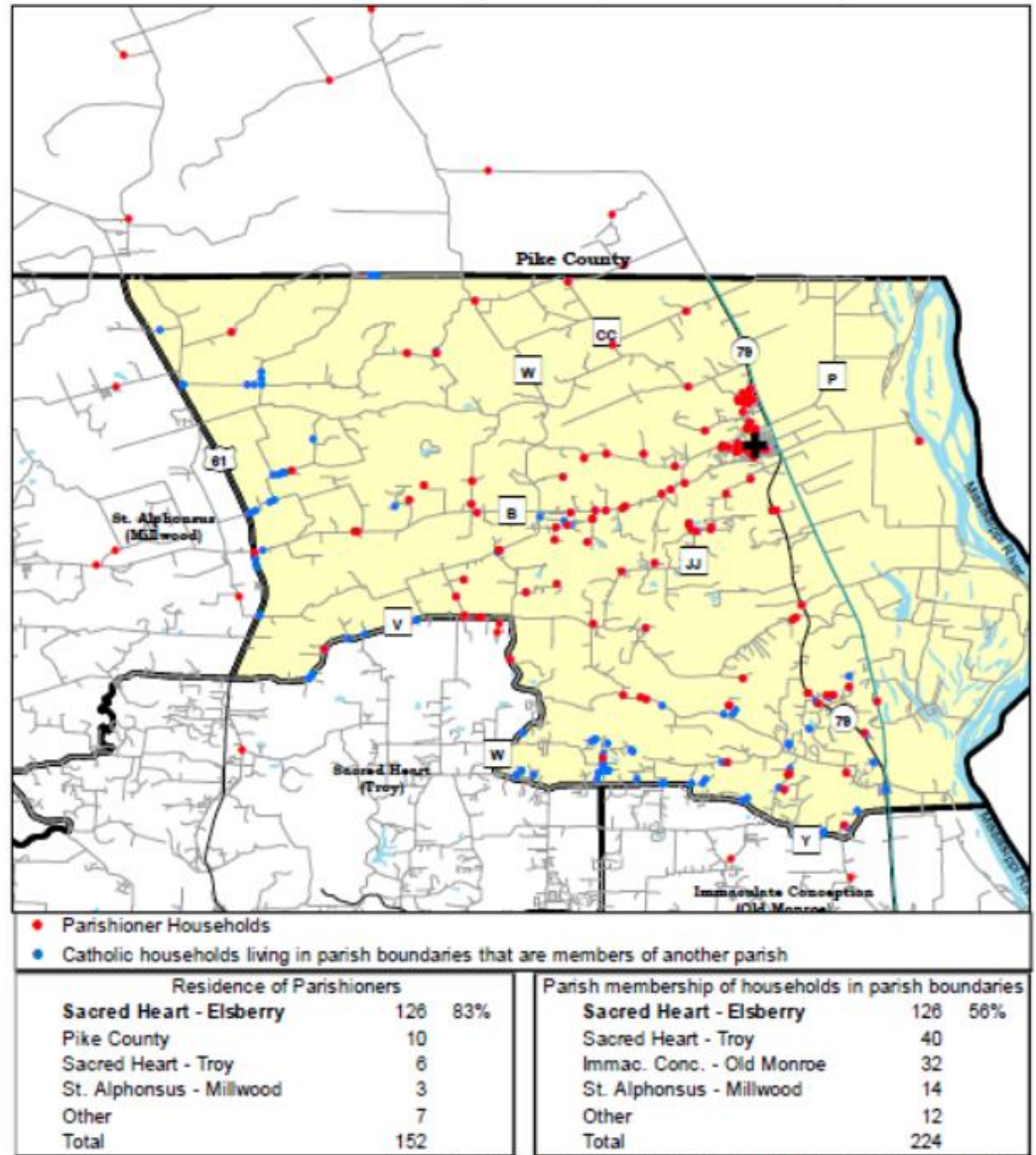
2020 Data	
<i>% of Households - Renters</i>	25%
<i>% of Households - Single Person Living Alone</i>	26%
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<b>Median Household Income</b>	
Parish Area	\$ 47,726
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700
2021 Data	
<b>% of Population Registered Catholic</b>	
Parish Area	10%
Archdiocese	18%
<b>No. of Catholic School Children in Parish Area</b>	<b>31</b>
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
<b>% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools</b>	<i>n/a</i>



# WHERE OUR PARISHIONERS & CATHOLICS LIVE

- Red dots are parishioner households; blue dots are Catholic households that are registered at a different parish.
- There are more Catholic households in the boundaries (224) than there are parishioner households (152).
- This means that more Catholic households leave the boundaries to affiliate elsewhere than come into the parish from outside the boundaries.
- Catholics along the southern end of the parish (blue dots) have tended to affiliate with Sacred Heart – Troy or Immaculate Conception parishes.

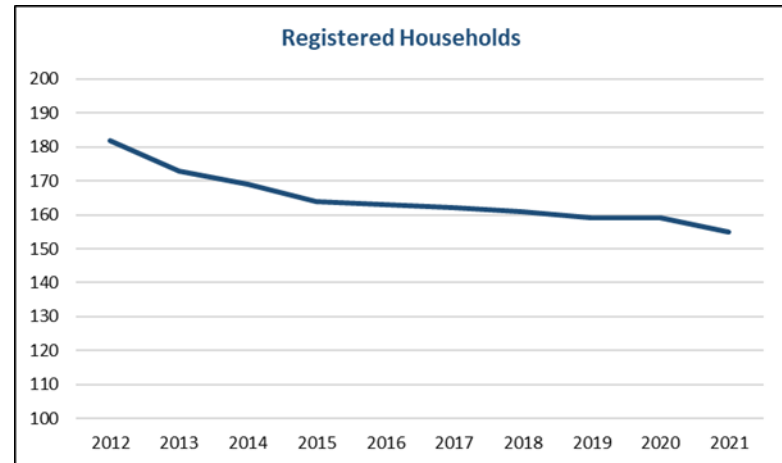
83 Percent of parishioner households live within the parish boundaries  
56 Percent of Catholic households living within the parish boundaries are parishioners



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

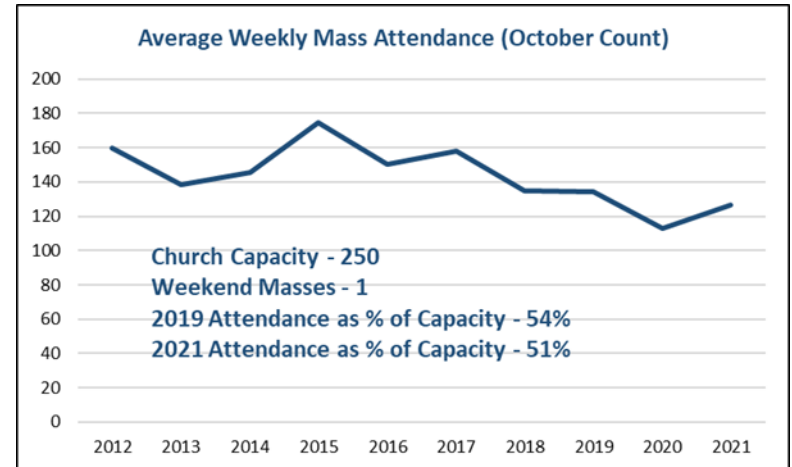
- Registered households have been on a decline during the past decade.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

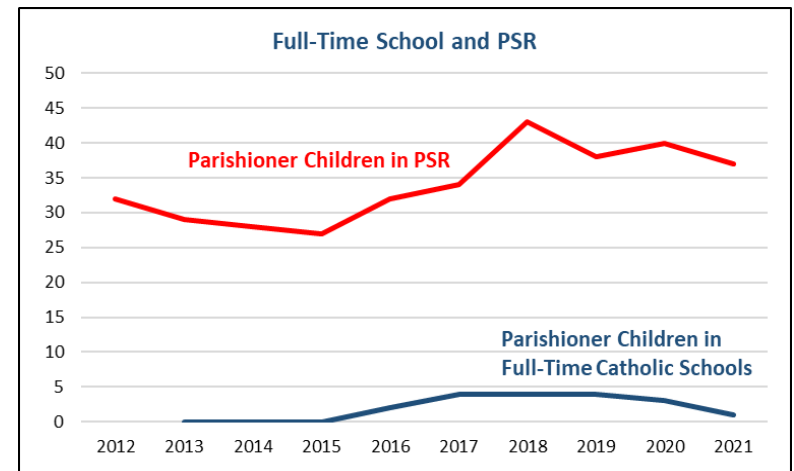
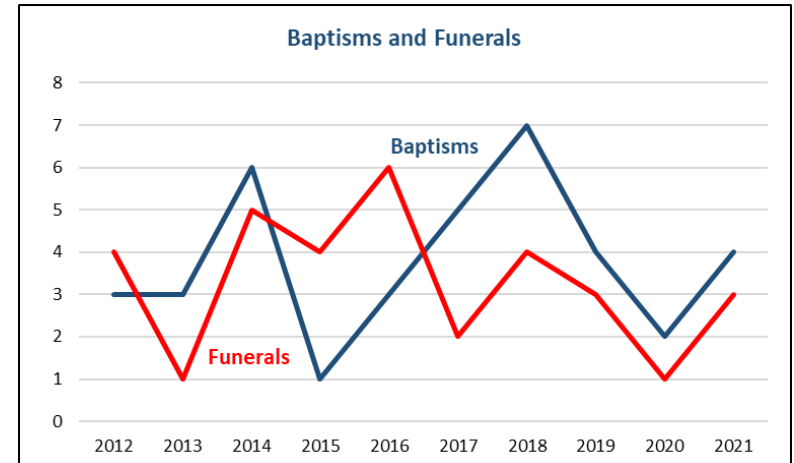
- Mass Attendance has been on a steady decline in the last 7 years and seems to have had only a slight COVID impact.
- Mass attendance as percent of capacity is much higher than the archdiocesan average of 33% in 2019 and 25% in 2021.
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance as percent of registered parishioners was 31-35%, higher than the archdiocesan average of 27-29%.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 RELIGIOUS FORMATION

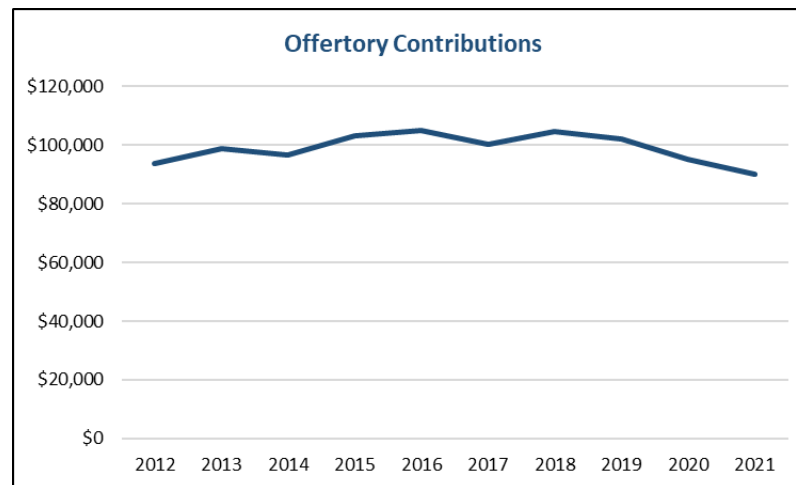
- At this small parish, baptisms have been stable and PSR enrollment has been growing somewhat



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

- After being stable or growing for several years, offertory contributions have been declining over the past few years.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- There has been very little investment in parishes where parishioner children attend Catholic schools and none in 2021.





# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## PARISH FINANCIAL CONDITION

- Revenue exceeded expenses for several years, growing reserves.
- Recently, revenues and expenses have been nearly the same, resulting in stable reserves.

